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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	[REDACTED]
SUBJECT	Clothing Repair Depot in Frankfurt/Oder	DATE DISTR.	11 December 1953
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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- The clothing repair depot in Frankfurt Oder, [REDACTED] is situated in the westerly half of the former German cavalry barracks between Birnbaumsmuehle and Schubertstrasse, to the south of the railway line Rosengarten-Gronenfelde. The unit's administrative offices are located in one half of a two-storied barrack block. The storehouses are housed in three old German stables. A railway siding runs from the main line into the barrack compound up to the storehouses. 25X1
- [REDACTED] is subordinate to the main quartermaster's department, in Wunsdorf, which has the [REDACTED] 25X1
- In command [REDACTED] is Lieutenant Colonel Viktor Alexandrovitsch Merkushev, who expects to be posted home towards the end of 1953. His deputy and the possible future Commander of the unit is Lieutenant Colonel Yakovlev. Both officers wear a magenta cap-band. 25X1
- The remainder of the unit is made up of:
 - 4 majors
 - 3 captains
 - 5 senior lieutenants
 - 2 junior lieutenants.

All wear similar uniform and have magenta cap-bands. Approximately 50 EM, wearing red epaulets with black piping, make up the rest of the military complement of the Unit. These latter are responsible for guard duties, maintaining the unit fire engine, driving and maintaining all unit transport, including horse-drawn transport, and doing fire drills.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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5. The civilian part of the unit consists of:

- 14 Russian girls
- 1 civilian Russian cook
- 18 German girls
- 3 German men

6. All of the Russian staff, civil as well as military, have their quarters in the barrack block occupied [redacted] Officers have their rooms on the ground-floor, all females on the first-floor and all EM and the Russian cook on the second-floor. Only Russian nationals are allowed to enter this barrack block without a written pass. All the Russian girls are unmarried and wear civilian clothes.

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7. The Russian girls do clerical work in the offices and warehouses [redacted] They complete all written records, register incoming and outgoing supplies and note the names of units having clothing for repair. All manual work is done by the German staff.

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8. Stored in the warehouses [redacted] are the following items:

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- (a) Soldiers' clothing including underclothing and boots;
- (b) Hand-towels, bedding, mattresses and sleeping bags;
- (c) Tents and tarpaulins
- (d) Sports equipment;
- (e) Harnesses for horses;
- (f) Musical instruments;
- (g) Typewriters and sewing machines.

All commodities are either brand new for initial issue or partly worn.

9. Clothing and equipment for repair are handed UNC [redacted] by various types of army units. The units bring a signed form from the main quartermaster's department in Wunsdorf which is handed in in exchange for new clothing or equipment. At various times during the past 12 months, units based in Saxony, Brandenburg, Mecklenburg and Thuringia have collected clothing and equipment [redacted] which indicates that this unit is responsible for supplying units in all of East Germany. Clothing for repair is brought [redacted] mainly by truck but occasionally it also arrives by rail. The method adopted by the unit when receiving a car-load of clothing is as follows:

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(a) The railway car is shunted into the siding opposite the unit's warehouses by means of a shunting engine from the Rosengarten railway station. There, the railway official in charge hands over the bill of lading to the Soviet transport officer [redacted]

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(b) Neither the bill of lading nor the stick-on-label attached to the railroad car carries the FPN of the dispatcher or recipient. An example of the writing attached to the railway car is as follows:

Destination:	Rosengarten near Frankfurt/Oder
Siding:	Schubertstrasse
Sender:	Military Unit Eberswalde, Kupferhammerweg.

In many cases the street is not given and Military Unit Eberswalde only will be shown.

(c) When the railway car is unsealed, the dispatching unit has one or two men there to supervise the unloading on its behalf. These men receive a signed receipt, signed by the Soviet transport officer. The receipt itself is typed by a Russian girl in the unit's office.

(d) All manual work in connection with the unloading of the railway car is done by one or two German workers, watched by a Russian civilian. The Russian civilian jots down the items on a piece of paper as they leave the railway car.

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The German workers have to hold up each item and give it a quick tug to demonstrate whether or not it is suitable for repair, or beyond repair. The equipment is then sorted into three lots: serviceable, serviceable after repair, unserviceable - to be used as scrap.

(e) All under-clothing is collected by the firm Landrock, Berlin-Kopenick, which is the accredited laundry of Unit 48250. They collect the laundry by truck and return it, after washing it, with the same truck.

(f) All textiles from the unserviceable heap are torn up into rags, bundled, and sent off to the Soviet army units for cleaning-rags etc. All unserviceable leather equipment is tied together and sent off to the Soviet Union in railway cars.

10. The same method as that described above is adopted when truck loads of equipment arrive [redacted]. The difference in this case is that the accompanying papers are made out: 25X1

[redacted] The locations of the dispatching unit and [redacted] are not given on any of the accompanying documents. A typed receipt, made out to [redacted] is again completed by a Russian girl in the unit's offices, and is signed by one of the unit's officers. 25X1
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11. All types of clothing, leather equipment, tarpaulins and tents are sent from Frankfurt/Oder to VEB Biesenthal for repair. The repair shops in Biesenthal employ only German workers. Although called a VEB, only the factory buildings are German; all machinery is Russian and the property of the Soviet Army.

12. Every month, approximately 2 railway car loads of clothing and equipment are sent from Frankfurt/Oder to Biesenthal for repair, and a similar quantity is returned repaired. A German worker is always present when this equipment is loaded or unloaded at the unit's warehouses.

13. New issues to units producing requisitions, over stamped by the main quarter-master's department in Wunsdorf, are booked out to Unit No. only and do not give unit locations. No Germans have any dealings whatsoever with visiting units. All questions connected with issue and receipt are dealt with by the Soviet staff.

14. Other Soviet army clothing and equipment depots having correspondence or dealings [redacted] include the following: 25X1

- (a) Clothing Depot, Eberswalde
Kupferhammerweg, [redacted] 25X1
Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Ivan Pavlovitsch Pereslavzev. This Unit appears to have the same role [redacted] except that the traffic handled by it is not nearly as voluminous. Its repairs are also undertaken by VEB Biesenthal. [redacted] employs only Soviets. 25X1

- (b) Clothing Depot Ravensbruck, near Furstenberg, [redacted] 25X1
Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Dudek. This Depot is similar to the one at Eberswalde. It also employs only Soviets.

- (c) Clothing Depot, Bernau, at Schonefelder Weg, [redacted] 25X1
In contrast to the Frankfurt depot, the Bernau depot only contains brand new equipment. The Bernau depot receives the greater part of its clothing and equipment direct from [redacted] factories, for example, boots from Weissenfels, clothing from VEB "Fortschritt I", Berlin-Lichtenberg, Stalin-Allee, and VEB "Fortschritt II", Berlin-Weissensee, and tents and tarpaulins from Leipzig factories. The depot in Bernau is larger than the one in Frankfurt. It has seven large storehouses plus one office and one barracks block. In addition to the Soviet staff, between 20 and 30 German manual workers are employed there. 25X1

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